

Applicant: P. Bonutti
Application No.: 09/988,954
Examiner: P. Prebilio

Amendments to the Claims

1-61 (canceled)

C2

62. (currently amended) A method of stabilizing tissue comprising the steps of:
positioning ~~a first~~ an implant in a patient's body such that the implant creates a space between a body tissue and at least one other object; and ~~tissue, the first implant having a unitary structure;~~
positioning a second implant against the tissue such that a portion of the first implant extends through the second implant; and
expanding the first implant while the second implant is disposed in the patient's body such that the space between the body tissue and at least one other object is at least maintained. ~~against the tissue to thereby secure the second implant to the tissue.~~

63. (currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 62 wherein said step of expanding the first implant includes absorbing body fluid into the first implant.

64. (withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 62 wherein said step of positioning a surgical ~~an~~ implant in a patient's body includes positioning an implant which is at least partially formed of body tissue in the patient's body.

65. (withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 62 wherein said step of positioning a surgical ~~an~~ implant in a patient's body includes positioning an implant containing body tissue in a living condition in the patient's body.

66. (withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 62 further including the step of forming a composite surgical implant containing first and second types of body tissue, said step of positioning an implant in a patient's body includes positioning the composite surgical implant containing the first and second types of body tissue in the patient's body.

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67. (currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 62 further including the step of making a hydrophilic implant, said step of positioning ~~a first~~ an implant in a patient's body tissue includes positioning the hydrophilic implant in the patient's body tissue.

68. (withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 62 further including the step of making a ~~surgical~~ an implant which is at least partially formed of body tissue which is hydrophilic, said step of positioning ~~surgical~~ an implant in a patient's body includes positioning the ~~surgical~~ implant which is at least partially formed of body tissue which is hydrophilic in the patient's body.

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69. (currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 62 wherein the ~~first~~ implant is at least partially formed of a biodegradable material.

70. (currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 62 wherein the ~~first~~ implant is fastened to the body tissue, a fastener.

71. (canceled)

72. (withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 62 further including the step of forming at least a portion of a wedge of expandable material, said step of positioning ~~a surgical~~ an implant in a patient's body includes positioning the wedge in the patient's body, said step of expanding the ~~surgical~~ implant includes expanding expandable material of the wedge.

73. (withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 62 further including the step of forming at least a portion of a screw of expandable material, said step of positioning ~~a surgical~~ an implant in a patient's body includes positioning the screw in the patient's body, said step of expanding the ~~surgical~~ implant includes expanding expandable material of the screw.

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74. (withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 62 further including the step of forming at least a portion of a rivet of expandable material, said step of positioning ~~a surgical~~ an implant in a patient's body includes positioning the rivet in the patient's body, said step of expanding the ~~surgical~~ implant includes expanding expandable material of the rivet.

75. (withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 62 further including the step of forming at least a portion of a retaining ring of expandable material, said step of positioning ~~a surgical~~ an implant in a patient's body includes positioning the retaining ring in the patient's body, said step of expanding the ~~surgical~~ implant includes expanding expandable material of the retaining ring.

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Cont
76. (currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 62 further including the step of forming at least a portion of a spacer of expandable material, said step of positioning ~~a first~~ an implant in a patient's body tissue includes positioning the spacer in the patient's body tissue, said step of expanding the ~~first~~ implant includes expanding expandable material of the spacer.

77. (withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 62 further including the step of forming at least a portion of an intramedullary rod of expandable material, said step of positioning ~~a surgical~~ an implant in a patient's body includes positioning the intramedullary rod in the patient's body, said step of expanding the ~~surgical~~ implant includes expanding expandable material of the intramedullary rod.

78. (withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 62 further including the step of forming at least a portion of a joint replacement part of expandable material, said step of positioning ~~a surgical~~ an implant in a patient's body includes positioning the joint replacement part in the patient's body, said step of expanding the ~~surgical~~ implant includes expanding expandable material of the joint replacement part.

79. (withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 62 further including the step of forming at least a portion of a femoral component of an acetabular cup of expandable material, said step of

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positioning ~~a surgical~~ an implant in a patient's body includes positioning the femoral component of the acetabular cup in the patient's body, said step of expanding the ~~surgical~~ implant includes expanding expandable material of the femoral component of the acetabular cup.

80. (withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 62 further including the step of forming at least a portion of a expandable sleeve of expandable material, said step of positioning ~~a surgical~~ an implant in a patient's body includes positioning the expandable sleeve in the patient's body, said step of expanding the ~~surgical~~ implant includes expanding expandable material of the expandable sleeve.

81. (withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 62 further including the step of forming a ~~surgical~~ an implant by placing body tissue cells on a base, said step of positioning the ~~surgical~~ an implant in the patient's body includes positioning the base in the patient's body with the body tissue cells disposed on the base.

C2
Cont
82. (withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 62 further including the step of forming a ~~surgical~~ an implant by placing body tissue cells on sheet material, said step of positioning the ~~surgical~~ an implant in the patient's body includes positioning the sheet material in the patient's body with the body tissue cells disposed on the sheet material.

83. (withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 62 further including the step of forming a ~~surgical~~ an implant by shaping body tissue to a desired shape, said step of positioning the ~~surgical~~ an implant in the patient's body includes moving the body tissue into the patient's body while the body tissue has the desired shape.

84. (withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 62 further including the step of forming a ~~surgical~~ an implant by compressing bone tissue around tendon tissue, said step of positioning a ~~surgical~~ an implant in the patient's body includes substituting the tendon around which the bone tissue has been compressed for a ligament in the patient's body.

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85. (withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 62 wherein said step of positioning a ~~surgical~~ an implant in a patient's body includes utilizing the ~~surgical~~ implant to repair an anterior cruciate ligament.

86. (withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 62 further including the step of forming a ~~surgical~~ an implant by combining a blood component with body tissue, said step of positioning ~~the surgical~~ an implant in the patient's body includes positioning the blood component and body tissue in the patient's body.

87. (withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 62 further including the step of forming a ~~surgical~~ an implant by centrifuging blood to separate one or more components from the blood and combining body tissue pieces with blood components, said step of positioning ~~the surgical~~ an implant in the patient's body includes positioning one or more components of the centrifuged blood and the body tissue pieces in the patient's body.

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Cont
88. (withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 62 further including the step of forming a ~~surgical~~ an implant by at least partially enclosing body tissue with a retainer formed of a biodegradable material, said step of positioning ~~the surgical~~ an implant in the patient's body includes positioning the body tissue enclosed by the retainer formed of biodegradable material in the patient's body.

89. (withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 62 further including the step of forming a ~~surgical~~ an implant by at least partially enclosing body tissue with a rigid retainer, said step of positioning ~~the surgical~~ an implant in the patient's body includes positioning the body tissue enclosed by the rigid retainer in the patient's body.

90. (withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 62 further including the step of forming a ~~surgical~~ an implant by at least partially enclosing body tissue and a bone growth enhancer with a

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retainer, said step of positioning ~~the surgical an~~ implant in the patient's body includes positioning the body tissue and bone growth enhancer enclosed by the retainer in the patient's body.

91. (withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 62 further including the step of forming a ~~surgical an~~ implant by compressing body tissue and positioning the compressed body tissue in a retainer, said step of positioning ~~the surgical an~~ implant in the patient's body includes positioning the retainer with the compressed body tissue in the retainer, in the patient's body.

92. (withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 62 further including the step of forming a ~~surgical an~~ implant, said step of forming a ~~surgical~~ implant includes compressing body tissue in a retainer, said step of positioning a ~~surgical an~~ implant in a patient's body includes positioning the compressed body tissue and retainer in the patient's body.

C2
Cont
93. (withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 62 further including the step of forming a ~~surgical an~~ implant, said step of forming a ~~surgical~~ implant includes forming a wedge of compressed body tissue, said step of positioning ~~the surgical an~~ implant in the patient's body includes positioning the wedge of compressed tissue in the patient's body, said step of expanding the ~~surgical~~ implant includes expanding the wedge of compressed body tissue.

94. (withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 62 further including the step of forming a surgical implant by compressing liver cells, said step of positioning the surgical implant in the patient's body includes positioning the compressed liver cells in the patient's body, said step of expanding the surgical implant includes expanding the compressed liver cells in the patient's body.

95. (withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 62 further including the step of forming a ~~surgical an~~ implant by compressing pancreas cells, said step of positioning ~~the surgical an~~ implant in the patient's body includes positioning the compressed pancreas cells in the patient's body, said step of expanding the ~~surgical~~ implant includes expanding the compressed pancreas

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cells in the patient's body.

96. (canceled)

97. (withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 62 further including the step of forming a ~~surgical~~ an implant by positioning bone and bone growth enhancers relative to a base, said step of positioning ~~the surgical~~ an implant in the patient's body includes positioning the base, bone, and bone growth enhancers in the patient's body.

98. (withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 97 wherein said step of expanding the ~~surgical~~ implant includes expanding the base.

99. (withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 97 wherein said step of positioning bone and bone growth enhancers relative to a base includes positioning human bone particles relative to the base.

100. (withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 62 further including the step of forming a ~~surgical~~ an implant by positioning human tissue relative to a base, said step of positioning ~~the surgical~~ an implant in a patient's body includes positioning the human tissue and base relative to the patient's body.

101. (withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 62 further including the step of forming a ~~surgical~~ an implant by harvesting human tissue and placing the human tissue on a structural support, said step of positioning ~~the surgical~~ an implant in the patient's body include positioning the structural support and human tissue in the patient's body.

102. (withdrawn) A method as set forth in claim 62 further including the step of forming a ~~surgical~~ an implant by positioning body tissue on a biodegradable support structure, said step of positioning ~~the surgical~~ an implant in the patient's body includes positioning the biodegradable

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support structure and body tissue in the patient's body.

103-106. (canceled)

107. (new) A method as set forth in claim 62 wherein the step of expanding the implant while the implant is disposed in the patient's body includes expanding the implant while the implant is disposed in the patient's body such that the space between the body tissue and at least one other object is increased.

108. (new) A method as set forth in claim 62 wherein the step of positioning an implant in a patient's body includes positioning an implant in a patient's body such that the implant creates a space between the body tissue and body tissue of a different type, and the step of expanding the implant while the implant is disposed in the patient's body includes expanding the implant while the implant is disposed in the patient's body such that the space between the body tissue and body tissue of a different type is at least maintained.

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Cont
109. (new) A method as set forth in claim 108 wherein the step of expanding the implant while the implant is disposed in the patient's body includes expanding the implant while the implant is disposed in the patient's body such that the space between the body tissue and body tissue of a different type is increased.

110. (new) A method as set forth in claim 62 wherein the step of positioning an implant in a patient's body includes positioning an implant in a patient's body such that the implant creates a space between the body tissue and bone, and the step of expanding the implant while the implant is disposed in the patient's body includes expanding the implant while the implant is disposed in the patient's body such that the space between the body tissue and bone is at least maintained.

111. (new) A method as set forth in claim 110 wherein the step of expanding the implant while the implant is disposed in the patient's body includes expanding the implant while the

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implant is disposed in the patient's body such that the space between the body tissue and bone is increased.

112. (new) A method as set forth in claim 62 wherein the step of positioning an implant in a patient's body includes positioning an implant in a patient's body such that the implant creates a space between bone and at least one other bone, and the step of expanding the implant while the implant is disposed in the patient's body includes expanding the implant while the implant is disposed in the patient's body such that the space between bone and at least one other bone is at least maintained.

113. (new) A method as set forth in claim 112 wherein the step of expanding the implant while the implant is disposed in the patient's body includes expanding the implant while the implant is disposed in the patient's body such that the space between bone and at least one other bone is increased.

114. (new) A method as set forth in claim 62 wherein the implant is fastened to at least one other object.

115. (new) A method as set forth in claim 62 wherein the implant is fastened to the body tissue and to at least one other object.